

CCDLA
"Ready in the Defense of Liberty"
Founded 1988

**Connecticut Criminal Defense
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March 12, 2012

The Honorable Eric D. Coleman
The Honorable Gerald M. Fox.
Chairmen
Joint Committee on Judiciary
Room 2500, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Raised Bill No. 364
An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information

Dear Chairmen and Committee Members:

The Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association (CCDLA) is a statewide organization of over 300 licensed lawyers, in both the public and private sectors, dedicated to defending persons accused of criminal offenses. Founded in 1988, CCDLA works to improve the criminal justice system by ensuring that the individual rights guaranteed by the Connecticut and United States constitutions are applied fairly and equally and that those rights are not diminished. At the same time, CCDLA strives to improve and suggest changes to the laws and procedures that apply to criminal justice. By way of this testimony, CCDLA supports passage of Raised Bill No. 364, An Act Concerning Traffic Stop Information, which would further the objectives of the Alvin Penn Act and amend C.G.S. §54-1m.

The Alvin Penn Act "prohibits police and law enforcement agencies from engaging in racial profiling, defined as the detention, interdiction, or other disparate treatment of someone solely because of his race or ethnicity. It requires the State Police and local police departments to adopt written policies that prohibit race-based traffic stops."¹


CCDLA agrees with the points raised in testimony submitted by the Office of the Public Defender. Specifically, that standardization of the data collection process as it relates to information gathered during traffic stops conducted by municipal and state police departments and the use of standardized forms to record the complaints of individuals who believe they were stopped because of race, color, ethnicity, age, gender or sexual

¹ OLR Bill Analysis, sHB 5674.

orientation, will ensure that the state will have the information necessary to identify whether racial profiling is being conducted by law enforcement. Such profiling, in addition to being illegal and discriminatory, undermines the criminal justice system as a whole by eroding trust and respect for law enforcement.

For these reasons, CCDLA supports this bill.

Respectfully submitted,
CCDLA

By, 
Moira L. Buckley
President Elect CCDLA